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(10-23 February 1953)

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Army and Navy Day: The occasion of the Army and Navy Day celebrations (23 February) is exploited to stress the capitalist encirclement and Western hostility toward the USSR, particularly on the part of the United States. Subsidiary comment on the theme recalls U.S. intervention and "atrocities" in the Soviet Union as well as the fact that America has always been the bitterest enemy of the Socialist fatherland and is preparing for war against it now. These points are driven home in a broadcast for agitators by Malikov transmitted from Kaliningrad (in Russian) on 19 February. Speaking of the prodigious effort invested by the United States in anti-Soviet undertakings from 1919 to this day, the author advises the agitators to keep the people posted on the "injustices" done to them years ago and the "diabolical plots" against them now by the same American enemy. The hands of the Anglo-American interventionists "are stained with the blood of hundreds of thousands" of Soviet people; the material damages caused to the motherland during the intervention "amounted to 39 billion gold rubles"; a new war against the USSR has been under preparation for many years. It is not apparent from the mentioned broadcast that the United States or any other CPYRGHT wartime ally fought on the side of the USSR during the last war:

When it became apparent that the Soviet army was able alone to liberate the whole of Europe ... the U.S. and Britain opened the second front with the chief aim of restoring (vosstanovlenie) the reactionary governments of central, southeastern and western Europe.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (22 February) speaks of the invincible might of the Soviet armed forces which "was bestowed on them" by the Communist Party and Stalin. The USSR "is waging a policy of peace" but is at the same time aware also of the continuing capitalist encirclement and the threat of an imperialist attack on the Soviet Union. A PRAVDA article by Kudrevatykh (21 February) tells of the exhibits of the Central Army Museum designed to familiarize the visitors with the history of American "atrocities" in the USSR during the civil war. Their atrocities are not confined to that period alone, he says, and as shown by documentary evidence, the Americans are not entirely unconnected with the Nazi crimes. The museum "visitor will learn" (posetitel uznayet) that the gas chambers of Oswiecim, for example, had been supplied by Siemens-Halske, a firm "connected with leading American monopolies." The exhibits also "tell the visitor" that the Basel Bank of International Settlements, headed by the New York banker Thomas McKittrick, was buying from the Reichsbank the gold teeth extracted from the victims of the German death camps.

Peaceful intentions, "great strength" (moguchaya sila) and "battle preparedness" (boyevaya gotovnost) of the Soviet army were the salient points brought out in all the other broadcasts on the anniversary, including the speeches and articles by Marshals Budenny, Sokolovsky, Bogdanov, Konev and others. PRAVDA's editorial devoted to that occasion (23 February) speaks of the "incomparable moral and fighting qualities" of the Soviet army, its first-rate officers and modern equipment which is "considerably better" than that used in the last war. All this, says the paper, has "radically changed the face of the army" as a whole.

Ideological indoctrination, as part of the general vigilance campaign, is discussed centrally and regionally in a variety of contexts most of them conceding that the Marxist-Leninist education of Party members is still inadequate, and that the level of political propaganda is low. This, says PRAVDA editorially on 11 February, is particularly evident in the case of the Estonian SSR whose Central Party Committee Secretary is reported to have admitted that many of the Republic's Party leaders have "lost their taste" (poteryali vkus) for ideological propaganda. Political enlightenment has been relegated to a secondary place also in Irkutsk and

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Ulyanovsk oblasts. It is about time ideological education were assigned "its proper place" (podobayushcheye ey mesto) in Party work, the paper emphasizes. This revaluation of the importance of the right kind of propaganda becomes all the more imperative in view of the fact that

on certain sectors of the ideological front there are still insufficiently stable people ... or even alien people, all sorts of elements from the remnants of the exposed anti-Soviet groups who introduce a variety of un-Marxian 'viewpoints' and 'concepts.'

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Russian text:

na otdelnykh uchastkakh ideologicheskogo fronta okazyvayutsya nedostatochno ideon stoliki lyudi ... ili dazhe chuzhdie lyudi, vsyakie elementy iz okhrostya razblachennykh antisovetskikh grupp, protaskivayushchie raznogo roda marksistskie 'tochko zrenia' i 'kontseptsii'.

The press and the radio, it is claimed, have not been doing their share in the ideological enlightenment of the people. Nor have the various Party organizations exhibited any great effort to make better use of them toward that end. Successful propaganda and agitation "are unthinkable" (nemyslimy) without the full-time cooperation of the daily press from the Republican level down. There have been too few articles on ideological topics, Marxist-Leninist theory or Stalin's latest work, and those that do appear on rare occasions are treated as abstractions "unconnected with actual life" (v otryve ot zhizni).

It is said that printed propaganda "has not yet attained the requisite range and depth" (ne priobrele eshche neobkhodimogo razmaka i glubiny). In a number of periodicals -- BAKINSKY RABOCHY, MOLDOVA SOTSIALISTE and NOVGORODSKAYA PRAVDA for example -- propaganda is conducted unsystematically and theoretical articles are seldom published. The ideological-theoretical level of some of the printed matter is insufficiently high; it is frequently presented in an abstract way and has no connection with the practical tasks of Communist construction. The contact (svyaz) between the newspapers and their readers--collective farmers, workers and intelligentsia--is admittedly weak. The press, it is further stated, has an "honorable task" (pochetnaya zadacha) to perform, and that is to join the fight against the remnants of bourgeois ideology and morals among us, against the carriers of alien views and private-property psychology who, taking advantage of our indolence and lack of vigilance, "are causing damage and harm to us" (vredyat i pakostyat nam).

RADYANSKA UKRAINA notes (20 February) with satisfaction that the Ukrainian press has "recently begun to expose more freely" the shortcomings of the Party, Soviet and administrative organizations. The general level of press criticism, however, "is still very low" and a number of regional papers are still inclined to keep out of controversial issues. Such papers as DNEPROVSKAYA PRAVDA and RADYANSKA BUKOVINA, for example, are said to be reluctant to print critical materials against the local authorities even when they are supported by incontrovertible evidence. The trouble is, the paper asserts, that not all of our newspaper editors have as yet been cured of the "idiotic malady of open-mouthed indolence" (idiotska khvoroba rotoziystva). On the other hand, there are papers which are trying to do an honest job of exposing local corruption but are strongly discouraged from such enterprises by the highest local authorities. The Odessa Oblast paper ZHAMYA KOMMUNIZMU which has sharply criticized the "bureaucratic attitude" of the oblast Party and Soviet officials toward a number of important issues is said to have been

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given "the silent treatment" by the Party and Executive Committees. In Kozeletsky Rayon, Chernigov Oblast, Party Secretary Starostina even went so far as "to forbid" the editorial office of the rayon paper to publish any critical material without consulting her first.

Reliable Party Personnel, the Source of our Strength is the common refrain heard on most of the Central and regional transmitters, and is frequently referred to in the context of political vigilance. PRAVDA's complaint (16 February) of the wide-spread reluctance to promote "young, capable and loyal Party workers" to positions of responsibility is echoed by IZVESTIA, RADYANSKA UKRAINA and a number of regional transmitters. The paper is especially critical of Communist officials who prefer people of "dubious value" (sommitejnaya tsennost) to honest young workers whose criticism might prove embarrassing to them. Such officials are merely motivated by a "petty official's fear" (chinovnichye boyazn), and that attitude is not conducive to greater vigilance. We cannot afford to relax our political vigilance, the paper continues, since there are among us people of questionable background who might worm their way into the Party and eventually cause us a great deal of harm. Mentioned in this connection are the disastrous results brought about by "complacency and non-political attitude" toward the selection of personnel for the Lithuanian newspaper TIESA and the Republic's ministry of the building materials industry, but the point is not amplified.

Greater rigidity in the selection and promotion of young people should not be confined to the Party alone, says IZVESTIA (18 February). The shortcomings in the personnel-training system are painfully evident in the realm of science where the plans for preparing scientific cadres "are not fulfilled from year to year" (iz goda v god ne vypolnyayutsya). It is revealed that the selection of young people for post-graduate work in science is not always made on the basis of political and scientific qualifications -- "other criteria" (inne kriterii), such as personal relations, wire-pulling, family ties etc. are used. A large shrinkage (bolshoy otsev) of the post-graduate student body has been noted in a number of scientific institutes and even in the USSR Academy of Sciences itself where the number of theses submitted by the students within the prescribed time limit is less than 50 percent of the minimum. In the Academy's Law Institute, for example, only 26 of the 148 post-graduate students managed to write their theses on time while 86 of them were expelled for incompetence and "other reasons." An allusion to what might be interpreted as a kind of vested interest within certain scientific institutions is contained in the paper's critical reference to their apparent reluctance to accept and promote newcomers from among the younger people. It is reported that a number of "scientific workers" of the Moscow and Kazakh Institutes of Medicine, the Institute of Experimental Medicine and the Central Eye Institute who have never been certified for their work for reasons of incompetence "are still keeping their places and blocking the admission of fresh forces" (prodolzhayut ostavatsya na mestakh, pregrazhdaya dorogu svezhim silam). Even some of the professors are said to be looking askance at the new arrivals. Thus Acadamecian Chizhikov has not trained a single doctor of sciences in the 13 years that he has been in charge of the Institute of Metallurgy.

A Stroyeva article in RADYANSKA UKRAINA (15 February, not broadcast) says that the ideological and political level of studies in the philosophical faculty of the Shevchenko State University is so low that many of the graduates "are unable to grasp the elementary issues of the Marxist-Leninist theory" (nespromozhni z'yasuvaty elementarnyy pytannya marksistko-leninskoy teorii). Ideological instruction has been criminally neglected in most of the departments, particularly in political sciences, dialectical and historical materialism and the history of philosophy. Some of them have not produced a single scientific publication in 20 years, while such important functions as the exposure of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism virtually omitted from the curriculum.

Only a few isolated scientists are working on themes that expose the anti-social and counter-revolutionary essence of Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism and cosmopolitanism.

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Ukrainian text:

Lyshe poodynoki naukovtsi pratsuyut nad temami, yaki vykryvayut antynarodnu, kontrrevolutsiynu sut ukrainskogo burzhuaznogo natsionalizmu ta kosmopolitizmu.

CPYRGHT

The Vigilance Campaign is still well to the fore in the radio and press output. It has in fact been expanded to include children who presumably are likely to "inherit ... repulsive habits and customs from the bourgeois order" (unasledovat ... otvratitelnie privychki i navyki ot burzhuaznogo stroya). This reference to ideological pitfalls against which children must be safeguarded is made in a TRUD article (17 February) by Academician Esipov who appeals to the parents to make their youngsters security conscious. The "moral demands" (moralnie trebovaniya) made upon the Communist by the new party statute, he says, apply to every citizen of the Soviet Union as well as to his children. It should be remembered that enemy agents among us are doing everything in their power to "produce a baneful influence" (okazat tletvornoje vlianije) on our youths, to sow doubts among them and cultivate their "lowly personal interests" (nizmennie lichnie interesy). It is up to the parents to explain to them the nature of such alien influences which are closely connected with the machinations of the imperialist warmongers.

CPYRGHT

The children must be told that the people are ready to explain the natural phenomena scientifically, and that religion strives to preserve backward and erroneous views. We must explain to them the absurdity, uselessness--and in a number of cases even the perniciousness--of religious rituals.

Russian text:

Nado rasskazat rebyatam, chto lyudi umeyut uzhe nauchno obyasnyst yavleniya prirody, a religiya sokhranyaet otstalie nevernie vzglyady. Nado razyasnyat im nelepost, nenuzhnost, a v ryade sluchayev i vrdnost religioznykh obryadov.

A Home Service broadcast of 18 February quotes from an IZVESTIA article by Nefedov who lists a series of anti-State crimes committed by Soviet officials, some of whom are presumably still at large. One of them, after having duped a number of organizations and bilked the State of millions of rubles, even succeeded in "working his way" up to the leading post of the Ministry of the Local Industry in Kirghiz SSR. The danger of overlooking such people in our midst, it is pointed out, should not be minimized since in their official capacity they have access to confidential papers. Even some of our honest officials are still affected by the "idiotic malady" (idiotickaya bolezn) of complacency, and are therefore "unable to keep State secrets" (ne umeyut khranit gosudarstvennyu tainu). Political vigilance, says Nefedov, must be raised still further in view of the recent anti-Soviet outrage in Israel which was perpetrated "with the obvious connivance" (pri yavnom popustitelstve) of the police and at the instigation of government leaders, the flunkies of American imperialism. The bomb explosion at the Soviet legation in Israel is interpreted as a retaliation by the "infuriated Zionist bandits" (bzbesivshiesya sionistskie bandity) for the exposure and apprehension of the "gang of doctor-poisoners" in the USSR.

The inclusion of Israel in the American "imperialist scheme" is discussed also by Belov in TRUD on 18 February. The recent explosion of a bomb at the Soviet mission of Tel Aviv is merely "another heinous crime of the Zionist agents of American imperialism" (novoye gnušnoye zlodeyanie sionistskikh agentov amerikanskogo imperializma). Linking the Tel Aviv incident with the "doctors' plot" in the USSR, Belov suggests that America's employment of cosmopolitans for its underhand activities

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is not accidental because these people have no homeland and are the avowed enemies of national sovereignty and independence. It is wrong to think, Belov goes on to say, that cosmopolitanism is merely the result of "thoughtlessness" (nedomyslie) on the part of bourgeois ideologues -- it is a reactionary theory "having its own class roots" (imeyet svoi klassovie korni) and therefore also a valuable asset to international imperialism.

Extreme ideological vigilance within the Communist Party itself is urged in a long KOMMUNIST editorial (No. 3, February). Inveighing against the practice of co-opting Communist officials into Party organizations instead of electing them as provided by the Statute, the editorial says that such co-optation tends to undermine intra-Party democracy and make ideological vigilance difficult. The replacement of the elective principle by co-optation (podmena printsipa vybornosti kooptatsiey) is said to have occurred in the Bashkir, Minsk and other unnamed organizations where the rank-and-file Communists have been deprived of their legal right to elect their Party officials. Such violations of the party statute call for severe punishment, including expulsion from the party, it is asserted. Interesting also is the cautious reference to Party vulnerability and to what might be construed as attempts at the formation of "groupings" within it:

CPYRGHT

The Party is not cut off from its surrounding milieu; the survivals of capitalism and the pressure of bourgeois ideology cannot help influencing certain elements within the Party...

Russian text:

Partai ne otorvana ot okruzhayushchey sredy; perezhitki kapitalizma i davlenie bourzhuaznoy ideologii ne mogut ne vliyat na otdelnie elementy v partii...

Any weakening of Party unity, it is claimed, may give birth to anti-Marxian views and concepts among the Communists which in turn will perpetuate such weakness and undermine the supreme leadership of the Party. Such alien views usually "lead to attempts at groupings" (vedut k popytkam gruppovshchiny). There is, of course, no intimation as to the nature of such "groupings" or whether such "attempts" have been or are being made, but the reference to such possibilities is in itself significant.

Ukrainian Bourgeois Nationalism: In a 13 February review of Moskalenko's Ukrainian-language grammar published in 1946, Gritsutenko discovers hitherto unnoticed elements of bourgeois nationalism. The book, he says, is nothing but a "harmful nationalist confusion" (shkidlyva natsionalistichna plutanina) and should be discarded. The Ukrainian Language Department of Odessa University, under whose sponsorship the grammar was published, must assume a major part of the responsibility for the perversions contained in it. It appears that the work "does not reflect" (ne vidobrazhae) Stalin's views on languages as outlined in his essay on linguistics. There is no objection to the method of presentation of the grammatical and syntactical elements, according to Gritsutenko, but it is the treatment of the Ukrainian language as a whole that falls far short of the mark: "The process of the development of the Ukrainian language is not linked with the development of the fraternal Russian ... language."

Undialectical Music Criticized: Marking the fifth anniversary of the Party's decision on the "line" to be pursued in the field of music, most of the central papers publish editorial reviews of Soviet musical achievements to date--and the familiar shortcomings. This is echoed by a number of regional transmitters some of which include that theme in the context of literature and art in general. The common point stressed in all the reviews is that the country's attainments in music, especially operatic music, are, to put it mildly, somewhat less rewarding

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then had been expected. PRAVDA, IZVESTIA and RADYANSKA UKRAINA (10 February) stress the familiar "lack of ideological content" (bezydeinost) in most of the latest musical productions which is said to make them so "dull and colorless" (skuchnie, serie). A more specific discussion of the issue is contained in Kabalevsky's LITERARY GAZETTE article of the same day. The trouble with many of our operas, he says, is that they still betray the influence of the so-called "no-conflict theory" (teoria bezkonfliktnosti) on their composers. As mentioned in previous CPW reports, that theory has been the target of frequent attacks as a "hangover" from the time when, with the exception of the class struggle, the presentation of controversial issues in stage productions and in art was not encouraged. But the treatment of such controversies, "the sharp clashes in life" (ostrie zhiznennie stolknovenia), is precisely what is demanded of the composers now, according to the author. Musical talent alone, it is claimed, is not enough -- a "genuine understanding of life" (podlinnoye znanie zhizni) is just as indispensable for the production of a successful opera. It is the "direction" (napravlennost) of the composer's ideological orientation that determines the success or failure of an opera, and he must therefore look to the only available source of proper guidance:

CPYRGHT

That is why it is so important for the composer--who is called upon to embody the realities of life in his creative work--to study the Marxist-Leninist science of society and the laws of its development.

Russian text:

Vot pochemu tak vazhno dlya kompozitora, kotoriy prizvan voploschhat realnyu zhizn v svoyem tvorchestve, izuchenie marksistsko-leninskoy nauki ob obshchestve, o zakonakh ego razvitiya.

The Soviet composers, says Kabalevskiy, are on the whole still "heavily indebted" (v bolshom dolgu) to the people, and the expected revival of creativity in the field of operatic art has so far been a failure: "We have grounds for alarm and worry" (u nas yest osnovania dlya trevogi i bespokoistva).

A broadcast from Alma Ata (11 February) quotes KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA as complaining that the output of the Republic's creative organizations still falls short of the requirements. The development of theatrical and musical art is laid to liberalism and carelessness in connection with ideological aberrations. The chief shortcoming of the Odessa composers, says CHERNOMORSKA UKRAINA on 11 February, is that they have not created a single worthwhile opera. The few productions they claim credit for are "weak in ideological and artistic aspects." The oblast composers' union is so weak, says ZARYA editorially on 20 February, that its membership "seldom exceeds two or three persons." Young talented composers are kept out of the union, and the few "drones" (khalturniki) left in it are unable to produce anything worthy of Soviet composers.

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